



GP14 Class Association of Ireland Constitution

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1 Title

The full name will be The GP14 Class Association of Ireland, hereafter referred to as GP14 Ireland.

2 Objective

The objectives of GP14 Ireland are:

- 1) Are to promote the interests and affairs of the GP14 Class on the island of Ireland, to act as the National GP14 Class Association for Ireland and in pursuit of this GP14 Ireland is affiliated to the International GP14 Class Association.
- 2) To promote and develop GP14 Class sailing and racing on the island of Ireland and to actively promote the class with respect to potential feeder classes (Mirror, 420, Topper, Optimist, Laser), sailing and dinghy clubs, and other relevant bodies.
- 3) To organise an annual programme of National, Regional, and other GP14 events in the island of Ireland working in co-operation with clubs and others, and to encourage members to participate in GP14 events at National and International level.
- 4) To provide a medium for the exchange of information between GP14 dinghy owners and sailors.
- 5) To represent the interests of GP14 Ireland Members / GP14 sailors in Ireland in all sailing matters at both National and International level and to develop and maintain relationships at International level with the International GP14 Class Association, Irish Sailing and RYA Northern Ireland (RYANI)
- 6) To encourage a high standard of sailing and racing, whilst upholding fair and sportsmanlike conduct both on and off the water.
- 7) To promote health and safety considerations and compliance among GP14 sailors when sailing or racing.
- 8) To inform members of Association activities and technical developments relating to the Class.
- 9) To liaise regularly on all relevant class matters and ensure that class rules are maintained.
- 10) To develop the skills of members sailing through events, training programs and other complimentary development programmes for sailors of all ages and racing levels, at National, Regional and Club level.

3 Membership

Membership of GP14 Ireland is facilitated through The International GP14 Class Association. Members of the International GP14 Class Association who are ordinarily based within the Island of Ireland shall on payment of the annual subscription to the International GP14 Class Association also become members of GP14 Ireland, subject to the terms of this Constitution.

3.1 Membership Categories

- (a) Full Membership (*)
- (b) Honorary Membership (*) which may be conferred by the Committee on such persons and for such time as the Committee shall think fit.
- (c) Group Membership which shall be open to any yacht or sailing club approved by the Committee.
- (d) Youth Membership which shall be open to any person wishing to support the objectives of GP14 Ireland and who will not attain their 22nd birthday during the calendar year for which the subscription is applicable.

- (e) Associate Membership which shall be open to any person wishing to support the objectives of GP14 Ireland.
- (f) Overseas (*) a full member living outside Europe.
- (g) Life Membership (*) 'Life Membership has not been available to members with effect from 1st July, 1980'.
- (h) Single Event Membership – as an individual who is a non-member, but who, on payment of a defined fee, may be granted membership to actively participate in either a racing or training event organised by GP14 Ireland.

* denotes voting right

3.2 Membership Subscriptions and Rates

- (a) Membership applications and subscriptions must be made through the International GP14 Class Association
- (b) The membership year will run from January 1st to December 31st
- (c) First-time sailors joining after 1st September will be credited with the following year's subscription.
- (d) Subscriptions rates are decided at the Annual General Meeting of the International GP14 Class Association.
- (e) Proposals to alter Subscriptions will not be made without prior approval of both GP14 Ireland and International GP14 Class Association Committees.
- (f) Only sailors who are fully paid up or have taken out single event membership for an event will be deemed to be a Member.

3.3 Membership Rights and Responsibilities

3.3.1 Only Members (as defined in section (3.1, Membership Categories) will be permitted to helm a boat in an event covered by the provisions of GP14 Ireland or the International GP14 Class Association.

3.3.2 All subscribing members shall be entitled to attend a General Meeting and to participate therein. Full, Overseas, Life and Honorary members shall have a vote. Youth, Associate and Group members shall have no vote.

3.3.3 Any member may resign their membership at any time by notifying the Committee in writing of their decision. In the event of a resignation, a refund of the subscription will not normally be possible.

3.3.4 A GP14 Ireland member may also attend, take part and depending on the membership category, vote at the AGM / EGM of The International GP14 Class Association. The AGM typically takes place each year during the GP14 UK National Championships or at the GP14 World Championship event. Please refer to the The International GP14 Class Association Constitution which has primacy for these General Meetings.

Note: It is not a requirement that crews be members of GP14 Ireland, other than the registered owner, of any boat participating in an event covered by the provisions of GP14 Ireland.

3.4 Membership Suspension and Removal

3.4.1 A member may be suspended for expelled from membership by the Committee only after a hearing protecting their rights to due process including a mutual exchange of evidence prior to the hearing.

3.4.2 A member may be suspended or expelled from membership by the Committee for the following:

- a) Committing an unlawful act in relation to GP14 Ireland or one of its members
- b) Engaging in conduct unworthy of a member, or injurious to the interests of GP14 Ireland
- c) For unsportsmanlike conduct contrary to the interest of the members of GP14 Ireland
- d) For intentional violation of Class Rules.

3.4.3 A vote on expulsion or suspension shall be by ballot, and will require a minimum of three-quarters of The Committee members present to vote in favour.

3.4.4 A member shall not be entitled to any return of any or any part of his subscription in respect of any period for which he shall be suspended or removed from membership.

4 The Committee, Officers and Representatives

The management and administration of GP14 Ireland and its affairs shall be vested in the Committee. The Committee shall have authority to exercise all such powers as are not by these Rules required to be exercised by GP14 Ireland in a General Meeting. The membership shall at an AGM elect the Committee to manage the day to day affairs of GP14 Ireland, and to hold office until the date of the next AGM.

4.1 Roles and Numbers

The Officers and Representatives of GP14 Ireland shall be comprised of a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 8. The GP14 Ireland Officers will include:

- (a) The President
- (b) Hon. Treasurer
- (c) Hon. Secretary

The Committee shall be responsible for ensuring some or all of the following secondary roles (sub-committee) are undertaken and report back to the Committee. These roles need not be held or led by Committee members but the holders must be GP14 Ireland members.

- a) Irish Sailing Liaison (*)
- b) RYA Northern Ireland Liaison (*)
- c) Youth Representative (*)
- d) Media Officer (*)
- e) Coaching & Training
- f) Safety & Safeguarding Officer (*)
- g) Fleets & League Coordinator (*)
- h) International GP14 Class Association Representative (*)

4.1.1 The President may hold the Hon. Secretary OR Hon. Treasurer position on The Committee but NOT both.

4.1.2 Hon. Treasurer & Hon. Secretary positions may NOT be jointly held by the same elected Committee member.

4.2 Nomination and Election

4.2.1 The Officers and Representatives of GP14 Ireland shall be elected each year at the AGM. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt representatives onto the Committee during the year, without a vote of the membership

4.2.2 The Officers and Representatives of GP14 Ireland then in office shall retire at each Annual General Meeting. Members of the outgoing Committee are eligible for re-election if nominated, except that a member cannot hold the office of President for more than three years consecutively.

4.2.3 Nominations for each position must be proposed and seconded by members and such nominations must include agreement from the nominee that they are prepared to serve. If a nominee cannot attend the AGM, a note to the Hon Sec confirming their agreement will suffice.

4.2.4 If the number of candidates for election is greater than the number of vacancies to be filled there shall be a ballot. If the number of candidates for election is equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled than all candidates shall be deemed to be elected if a majority of those present at the AGM, and entitled to vote, vote in favour of such election.

4.2.5 If a vacancy arises between one AGM and the next, the Committee may seek to fill that vacancy from within its own elected membership, or if they are unable to so fill the vacancy, they may also co-opt a replacement Officer or Representative as required.

4.2.6 All Nominees for The Committee must be members of the International GP14 Class Association and must maintain their membership throughout their term on The Committee.

4.2.6 All Nominees for the Committee must be at least 18 years of age when elected.

4.3 Committee Meetings

4.3.1 Committee Meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by The President, Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer. There must be a minimum of 3 Committee meetings per year excluding the AGM or an EGM

4.3.2 The quorum at any meeting shall be 4 members of The Committee

4.3.3 Committee Meetings may be held face to face, virtually (using Zoom etc.) or a combination thereof.

4.3.4 Minutes of all Committee Meetings must be taken by the Hon. Secretary (or a nominated other) and should be made available to all Committee members at the earliest opportunity or at a minimum before the next Committee meeting.

4.4 Sub-Committees

4.4.1 The Committee may delegate any of their powers to sub-committees consisting of such member or members of the Committee or Club as they think fit. Any sub-committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the power so delegated, conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Committee or by the direction of the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall appoint a Chairman of each subcommittee.

4.4.2 The members of the Sub-Committee will be displayed on the Club website.

4.4.3 The Committee may at its discretion co-opt individual members to sub-committees for specific duties and responsibilities as required.

5 Financial Management

5.1 Funding

5.1.1 GP14 Ireland will be funded through capitation fees associated through subscriptions, surplus income from events, sales of merchandise, donations and any other revenue negotiated by the Committee.

5.1.2 GP14 Ireland will receive a yearly capitation fee (percentage of yearly subscription) from The International GP14 Class Association for each member subscription received from those members residing on the island of Ireland. Any change to levels of capitation must be approved by both the GP14 Ireland and The International GP14 Class Association Committees.

5.2 Account Statement

5.2.1 Hon. Treasurer will ensure that true records of income and expenditure are maintained along with receipts and updated on a quarterly basis.

5.2.2 An Annual Financial Statement of Accounts will be prepared for the AGM, covering the period since the last AGM and presented to the members at the AGM for approval.

5.3 Bank Account

5.3.1 GP14 Ireland may not borrow money, arrange for any form of credit facility, or utilize a bank account with an overdraft facility.

5.3.2 A GP14 Ireland bank account must have at a minimum of 2 mandated members of The Committee including Hon. Treasurer, to authorise payments or access the bank account services.

6 General Meetings

6.1 Extraordinary General Meeting

6.1.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting of GP14 Ireland shall be held at such venue, at such time and on such date as Committee shall determine within 60 days of Hon. Secretary receiving a demand in writing stating the business to be transacted and signed by not less than 8 members.

6.1.2 Notices convening Extraordinary General Meetings shall be posted or given (includes electronic notice) to members at least 14 days in advance by the Hon. Secretary. Such notice is to set out the business to be transacted at that meeting. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

6.1.3 The President or in his absence, a Committee appointee, shall preside at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

6.1.4 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of voting members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. 10 voting members present in person shall be a quorum.

6.1.5 Electronic voting (email) is available for those who cannot attend the EGM and must be submitted 48 hours in advance to the Hon. Secretary. Those choosing to use electronic voting should be aware that items added to the EGM agenda through the Chair cannot be included as part of their electronic vote.

6.1.6 Unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution, voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be by a show of hands, including those submitted to the Hon. Secretary via electronic voting, a simple majority of those voting being required.

6.1.7 Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting must be taken by the Hon. Secretary (or a nominated other) and should be made available to The Committee and members at the earliest opportunity.

6.2 Annual General Meeting

6.2.1 The Annual General Meeting of GP14 Ireland shall be held at such venue, at such time on such date between 1st September and 31st December each year as the Committee may determine. In exceptional circumstances the AGM may be held over into the following year but must be held before March 31st of that year.

6.2.2 Notices convening Annual General Meetings shall be posted or given (includes electronic notice) to members at least 14 days in advance by the Hon. Secretary. Such notice is to set out the business to be transacted at that meeting. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

6.2.3 The President or in his absence, a Committee appointee, shall preside at any General Meeting.

6.2.4 No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless a quorum of voting members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. 10 voting members present in person shall be a quorum.

6.2.5 Electronic voting (email) is available for those who cannot attend the AGM and must be submitted 48 hours in advance to the Hon. Secretary. Those choosing to use electronic voting should be aware that items added to the AGM agenda through the Chair cannot be included as part of their electronic vote.

6.2.6 Unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution, voting at an Annual General Meeting shall be by a show of hands, including those submitted to the Hon. Secretary via electronic voting, a simple majority of those voting being required.

6.2.7 The business to be considered or transacted at an Annual General Meeting shall include:

- (1) a report of The President of GP14 Ireland;
- (2) a report of Hon. Treasurer and the statement of accounts of GP14 Ireland for the preceding financial year;
- (3) the election of GP14 Ireland Committee members

(4) any proposal by a member notified to Hon. Secretary not less than 21 days before the meeting.

6.2.8 Minutes of an Annual General Meeting must be taken by the Hon. Secretary (or a nominated other) and should be made available to The Committee and members at the earliest opportunity.

7 Changes to the Constitution

7.1.1 Any member may propose changes to the Constitution.

7.1.2 This Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or an EGM of GP14 Ireland.

7.1.3 Details of the proposed changes, along with the name of a seconder (also a member) must be given to Hon. Secretary in writing at least one month before the AGM, or EGM if called for that purpose.

7.1.4 A change to the Constitution may only be passed if two thirds or more of the votes are in favour of the resolution.

7.1.5 Electronic voting (email) is accepted and must be submitted 48 hours in advance to the Hon. Secretary who will acknowledge receipt of the vote. It is up to the voter to ensure successful receipt. Those choosing to use electronic voting should be aware that items added to the EGM or AGM agenda through the Chair cannot be included as part of their electronic vote.

7.1.6 All approved Resolutions shall be published on the Class Website (gp14ireland.com), detailing the date on which the resolution was approved. The Constitution itself will be updated and the updated version made available on the Class website This must be done at the earliest reasonable opportunity after the Resolution being approved.

8 GP14 Ireland Rules

8.1 The Class Rules

8.1.1 The GP14 is a 'One Design Class' designed by Jack Holt and made by licensed builders. Boats made from GRP must be made from official and licensed moulds.. The Class Rules are those approved and published by the International GP14 Class Association.

8.1.2 A request to amend The Class Rules may only be considered following a request through the International GP14 Class Association.

8.1.3 GP14 Ireland will support the International GP14 Class Association in maintaining the one design character of the GP14 dinghy and will report to the International GP14 Class Association, any matter which may appear to violate or threaten the spirit of the Class Rules.

8.2 Class Measurer

8.2.1 GP14 Ireland appoint Class Measurers to ensure that boats, sails and equipment comply with the class measurement rules and to :

(a) Advise on any technical matters relevant to the Class.

(b) Ensure that the one design control of the Class is properly exercised by the builders and suppliers in accordance with the 'Plans and Class Rules'.

- (c) Investigate any query by a member or boat owner regarding the one design or specification of the boat, and to report to the Committee on the outcome.
- (d) Consult with the builders on any development of the boat or equipment deemed to be desirable as a result of sailing experience.
- (e) Ensure that boats used in GP14 Ireland sailing events and regattas comply with the Class Rules.

8.2.2 The GP14 Ireland Class Measurer shall be a member of the Technical & Rules sub-group of International GP14 Class Association.

9 Important Requirements and Limitations

9.1 Requirements

9.1.1 GP14 Ireland may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those voting Members present at an Exceptional General Meeting convened for this purpose. The resolution may include proposals for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of GP14 Ireland, following the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities. Such assets will not be paid to or distributed among the members, but given or transferred to such other charitable organisations or institutions having objects similar to some or all of those of GP14 Ireland, as the members may determine.

9.1.2 The Principal Race officer (PRO) for the Championship of Ireland will be selected by the Club hosting and organizing the event but must be a qualified (World Sailing) International Race Officer or a National Race Officer as recognized by Irish Sailing or RYA Northern Ireland. The proposed candidate for selection must be notified to The Committee to enable validation by Irish Sailing or RYA Northern Ireland.

9.1.3 A National Judge is also required for the Championship of Ireland and will be selected by the Club hosting and organizing the event but must be a qualified National Judge as recognized by Irish Sailing or RYA Northern Ireland. The proposed candidate for selection must be notified to The Committee to enable validation by Irish Sailing or RYA Northern Ireland.

9.2 Limitations

9.2.1 GP14 Ireland itself may not be THE 'Organizing Authority' for any competitive sailing event. All organized events must be undertaken and run by certified bodies (Irish Sailing/RYA NI) or certified Clubs on the island of Ireland. It may advertise events and individuals may offer their services as part of the running of the event, but not as representatives of GP14 Ireland.

9.2.2 In the execution of their responsibilities under this Constitution, Committee members will not be liable for any loss to members or former members or to the assets of GP14 Ireland, by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by them or any other officer or member of the Committee or for any other matter other than willful and individual wrongdoing, omission or fraud on the part of the person who is sought to be made liable.

9.2.3 GP14 Ireland and all of its Committee members are not in any way liable for injury or loss of life to persons whilst sailing or taking part in any events.

9.2.4 Members of GP Ireland undertake and agree not to take any legal action against GP Ireland or any of its Committee members seeking compensation for personal injuries loss and damage sustained while attending or participating in any event organised by GP Ireland.

9.2.5 GP14 Ireland shall not be held liable in any way for loss or damage to property or boats.

9.2.6 The assets and funds of GP14 Ireland shall be used solely in the furtherance of its stated objectives. It is a non-profit organisation, and no profits or surpluses will be distributed to the membership.

9.2.7 Only Full, Overseas, Honorary, Life, Group or Youth Members may register a boat with The International GP14 Class Association.

End of Document

Revision	Description
Draft	Initial document. Released for review and feedback from Committee and David Rowlands (T&R Chair - International GP14 Class Association)
1.0	Updated draft and release – Clarified membership voting.
2.0	Review by Committee members and former President of International GP14 Class Curly Morris. Areas updated include Committee meetings, EGM & AGM minutes, Term of Office etc.
3.0	Further review by Michael Collender former President of GP14 Ireland. Areas updated include membership categories, relationship with International, etc..
4	Donal McGuinness reviewed
5	Suggestion on AGM & EGM format by Mel Morris
6	Include Health & Safety objective and remove IS membership as not applicable.